

WHAT'S NEW IN WORKERS' COMPENSATION?

The MRP Workers' Compensation Program (WCP) moved from Marketing and Regulatory Programs Business Services (MRP-BS), Human Resources to MRP-BS, Administrative Services Enhancement Unit (ASEU) on February 14, 2000. Ms. Joanne Munno, Director, ASEU, has made this program a priority and has assigned a Team to work with you on WC related issues.

The Team is made up of the following:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITIES</u>	<u>PHONE #</u>
Ayanna Smith	Primary contact for AMS, backup for APHIS	(301) 734-7488
Elaine Lawson	Primary contact for APHIS, backup for AMS	(301) 734-4398
Denise Coleman	Backup for case work, Policy Development, Long term case management	(301) 734-8350
Julie Cooper	Long term case management, Program Development	(301) 734-7742
Karen Goldstein	Team Leader Program Development and Evaluation Team	(301) 734-5473
Bob Rice	Team Leader Safety, Health, Environmental and Security Team	(301) 734-5557

If for any reason you are unable to reach Ayanna Smith, Elaine Lawson, or Denise Coleman, please contact Bob Rice.

Hot topics:

In July 1999, President Clinton directed the Secretary of Labor to lead the **Federal Worker 2000 Presidential Initiative**. This initiative will have a duration of 5 years and establishes 3 measurable goals. The goals are:

- 1.) Reducing the overall occurrence of injuries by 3 percent per year, while improving agencies' timeliness of reporting injuries and illnesses to the Department of Labor by 5 percent per year.
- 2.) For those work sites with the highest rates of serious injuries, reducing the occurrence of such injuries by 10 percent per year. (One MRP worksite is on this list.)
- 3.) Reducing the rate of lost production days (i.e. the number of days an employee spends away from work) by 2 percent per year.

The baseline for USDA was established by the Department of Labor and progress will be monitored at the Department level. If you have any questions on Federal Worker 2000, please contact Julie Cooper

at (301) 734-7742. As MRP develops strategies to meet these goals, you will receive additional information.

Upcoming events:

Metropolitan Washington Federal Safety and Health Council, “One-Day Workers’ Compensation Seminar” on April 11 in Washington, DC. The seminar will include speakers discussing ways to improve your Workers’ Compensation Program and how you can achieve the goals specified in President Clinton’s Federal Worker 2000 Initiative. For additional information, please call Ayanna Smith at (301) 734-7488.

The APHIS Safety and Health Conference is May 2-4 in Miami, Florida. Topics to be discussed cover a variety of safety and health related issues. All are invited to attend. For additional information, please call Denise Coleman at (301) 734-8350.

The 2nd Annual Federal Workers’ Compensation Conference and Exposition is August 13-17 at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The purpose of this conference is to provide the most effective and efficient workers’ compensation case management training available. Expert faculty from a variety of Federal Departments and the private sector will provide “Best Practices” utilized by their personnel to effectively and efficiently manage a Workers’ Compensation Program. For additional information, please call Ayanna Smith at (301) 734-7488.